

# PREGNANCY EXPERIENCE (PROXY FOR PERINATAL DEPRESSION)

**Definition:** Women who described the time during their pregnancy as moderately hard, very hard, or one of the worst times of their lives.

**Significance:** Women who have a difficult time during pregnancy are more likely to have poor birth outcomes, such as low birth weight and prematurity.

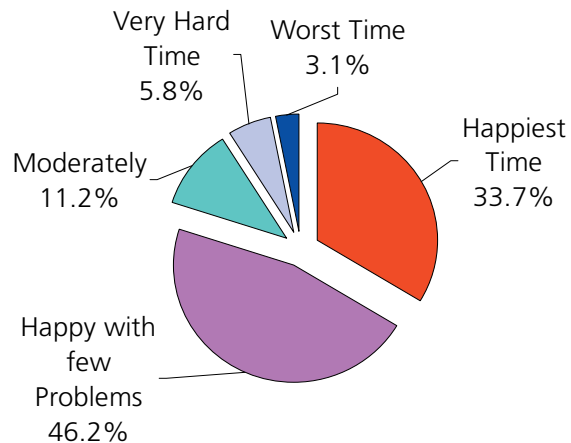


PRAMS

## Summary

- Overall, 20.1% of women stated they had a hard time during their pregnancy. Specifically, 11.2% had a moderately hard time, 5.8% had a very hard time, and 3.1% stated it was one of the worst times of their lives.

Time During Pregnancy  
Rhode Island, 2002-2003



## Maternal Characteristics

- Teens were more likely to have a hard time during pregnancy than women aged 30 or older (28.9% vs 17.8%).
- Unmarried women were more likely to have a hard time during pregnancy than married women (26.7% vs 6.4%).
- Women with household incomes of less than \$16,000 were nearly twice as likely to have a hard time during pregnancy than women with incomes of \$40,000 or more (26.2% vs 15.3%).
- Women with public insurance were more likely to have a hard time during pregnancy than women with private insurance (25.6% vs 16.7%).

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- Women who had low birth weight babies were more likely to have had a hard time during pregnancy than women who had babies with normal birth weight (29.5 vs 19.4%).
- Women whose pregnancy was unintended were more likely to have a hard time during pregnancy than women whose pregnancy was intended (29.4% vs 14.8%).
- Women who had a hard time during pregnancy were more than twice as likely to have postpartum depression than women who did not have a hard time (37.6% vs 4.5%).

Had Hard Time During Pregnancy by Selected Characteristics  
Rhode Island, 2002-2003

